

Luncheon to honor small business award winners set for May 22

The Oklahoma Small Business award winners will be recognized during a luncheon Tuesday, May 22 at Rose State College Student Center in Midwest City. The luncheon will begin at

11:30 a.m.

Guest speaker is

Clifton

Taulbert,

one of

America's

leading

thought leaders on the "Power

of Community." He views

community in the workplace

as a powerful leadership asset.

Taulbert was chosen by CNN

at the turn of the millennium

to represent one of the voices

of 'Community.'

Tickets for the luncheon

are \$25. Tables that seat six

may be purchased for \$140.

Please register by contacting Rose State Small Business Development Center, 405-733-7348.



Clifton Taulbert



SBA names 2007 Oklahoma Small Business Person of the Year, Small Business Champions

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Colleen J. Payne-Nabors 2007 Oklahoma Small Business Person of the Year. Nabors is chief executive officer of the MCI Diagnostic Center in Tulsa. She was nominated for the award by the employees of the MCI Diagnostic Center.

Nabors was named top small business person in the state based on her companies' staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales, innovativeness of product and contributions to community-oriented projects.

It was in 1998 when the wheels of the Mobile Cardiac Imaging Company began rolling to bring a dream to reality. Nabors, a nuclear medical technologist, had a vision to start a mobile medical service company in Oklahoma providing testing for patients in rural communities. She collected \$90,000 from family and friends, and contracted with a Chicago company to build and lease a \$654,000, 55 feet specially-equipped medical coach. Nabors said the company agreed to build the coach if she could come up with five letters of intent from doctors to use her services. She secured her letters of intent and the business was up and running, providing cardiac screening services in rural areas, with test re-

sults returned within 24 hours.

Today the company has a fleet of nine vehicles, two clinic locations and 26 employees with sales in excess of \$3 million. Mobile Cardiac Imaging now does business as MCI Diagnostic Center and provides expanded services to include lung screening, Holter monitoring, Dexa Scan, Nuclear Medicine, Stress Testing, Ultrasound, MRI and CT scans.

The following individuals also earned 2007 SBA Oklahoma Small Business Awards. Two of those individuals went on to be named the top in SBA's Region VI which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas:

Regional and State winner of the Women in Business

Champion of the Year, Patricia E. Beck, self-employment training coordinator, Great Plains Technology Center, Lawton;

Regional and State winner of the Small Business Journalist

of the Year, Risha Grant, publisher/editor-in-chief, Xposure Business Magazine, Tulsa;

Family Owned Small Business of the Year, Joseph Britton, CEO, OCV Control Valves, Tulsa;



Colleen Payne-Nabors

Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Clayton T. Clark, owner/president, DJ Connection Tulsa, Inc., Tulsa;

Financial Services Champion of the Year, Kent Murray, Agribusiness Management Instructor, Great Plains Technology Center, Lawton;

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year, Kristi Renee Coker, executive director, Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, Shawnee;

Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year, Mary Eichinger, business coordinator, Oklahoma Small Business Development Center, Lawton.



Patricia
E. Beck



**Women in Business Champion
of the Year**

Patricia E. Beck

Self Employment Training Coord.
Great Plains Techn. Center
4500 W. Lee Blvd.
Lawton, OK 73505

Beck began her work as self-employment training coordinator at the Great Plains Technology Center in 2000. She has provided 195 seminars covering business, safety, management skills and human resources to 2,289 people. Beck served as charter member and president of the all-women Mountain Metro American Business Club, an organization that offers encouragement and support to women in business. Beck spends many evenings per semester to teach "Going into Business" seminars for small business owners.

**Small Business Journalist
of the Year**

Risha Grant

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Xposure, Inc.
507 S. Main, Suite 400
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119

Grant's passion for small business led her to create Xposure Business Magazine in 2005. The publication serves to increase public understanding of the importance of small business contributions to the economy. The magazine profiles small business owners throughout Oklahoma who employ 250 people or less, or whose revenue total \$10 million or less.

**Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned
Business of the Year**

Joseph Britton Radford

CEO
OCV Control Valves
7400 East 42nd Place
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145

In 1993, Radford became the next in line to head Tulsa-based OCV Control Values, a company that manufactures and sells control valves for use in fluid handling applications in water, fire protection, petroleum and aviation.. The original company, Aeroparts Manufacturing, was started in 1942 by his

father Tex Radford. The company was created to provide aircraft parts to support the war. After 40 years of running the business, Tex passed the reins to his children, Janis Brockman, Rob and Britt Radford. The company now employs 80 workers and competes with industry giants both nationally and internationally.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Clayton Thomas Clark

Owner/President
DJ Connection Tulsa, Inc.
8900 South Lynn Lane Rd.
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74012

At the age of 25, Clayton Thomas Clark is the owner of both DJ Connection Tulsa Inc., one of America's largest Disk Jockey & Mobile Entertainment Companies and Chocolate Elegance, a chocolate fountain company. Founded in 1996, DJ Connection now has a staff of more than 40 interactive and articulate MC/DJs that service a four-hour radius of the Tulsa market which includes Dallas, Eureka Springs; Independence, Kansas City and Paola, Kansas; and Springfield, Missouri.

**Financial Services Champion
of the Year**

Kent Murray

Agribusiness Management Instructor
Great Plains Technology Center
4500 W. Lee Blvd.
Lawton, Oklahoma 73505

Kent Murray spent his professional life helping the agricultural community. He spends many evenings and weekends working with farm families to strengthen their financial planning and assisting with restructuring of their farm debt. Kent offers his services free of charge. In addition to farmers and ranchers, Kent has worked with many rural businesses to find funding and other resources. Kent has saved over \$440,000 of interest payments that would otherwise have been paid by farmers/ranchers. He has assisted over 300 individuals, at least half of whom would not be farming/ranching today had they not been able to restructure their debt.

**Minority Small Business Champion
of the Year**

Kristi Renee Coker

Executive Director
Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation
130 E. MacArthur, Ste. 206
Shawnee, OK 74804

Kristi Coker is the founding executive director of the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation, a U.S. Department of Treasury Certified Community Development Financial Institution. It was chartered by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, headquartered in Shawnee, to provide capital and technical assistance for projects that help create a healthy tribal economy. Ms. Coker has long recognized the need of training, technical assistance, loans and financial education to help tribal and aspiring entrepreneurs achieve self-sufficiency. Because of Ms. Coker's dedication over \$7 million dollars was raised from the federal government and private foundations which allows the CPCDC to provide more loans to Tribal members.

**Veteran Small Business Champion
of the Year**

Mary Eichinger

Business Coordinator
Oklahoma Small Business Development Center
711 S. W. D Ave., Ste 203
Lawton, Oklahoma 73501

As the OSBDC business coordinator in Lawton, Mary Eichinger is responsible for the two military communities of Fort Sill and Altus AFB. Under her direction, counseling and workshops are made available for veterans to receive significant small business information and resources to fuel an ever growing interest in entrepreneurship on the part of her veteran clients. During monthly outreach visits to Fort Sill and Altus AFB Mary has been able to create an enterprise nurturing climate in which small business ownership is readily discussed as a career option. In addition to individual counseling, seminars have been developed specifically targeting the need of veterans going into business.

Risha
Grant



Joseph
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Radford



Clayton
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